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RECENT LITERATURE.

Conquest of the Vegetable World.[1]—This volume forms one or the series *Etudes d'Histoire Gênérale.* The author, M. Louis Bourdeau, treats the subject under twelve different heads, classifying plants according to the use made of them by man. The introduction gives a general theory of the increase of plants, both naturally and by cultivation. Following this are successive chapters on plants used directly as food and those from which food is manufactured in the form of liquors, oils and sugars; the fodder plants and those from which extracts are made, to be used medicinally, or as perfumery; plants useful for the arts and industries, and those which subserve merely ornamental purposes. The work concludes with a chapter on the creation and preservation of artificial varieties of some types of plants.

Report of the Minnesota Geological and Natural History Survey for the Year 1891.[2]—This quarto publication of 344 pages comprises reports on the crystalline rocks and the oxide of manganese, by Mr. N. H. Wilson; the Mesabi iron range, by H. V. Winchell; a record of field observations in four granite areas, with a catalogue of rock specimens, by Mr. U. S. Grant; a sketch of the costal topography of the north side of Lake Superior, with special reference to the abandoned strands of Lake Warren, by Mr. A. C. Lawson; a composite paper on the Diatomaceae of Minnesota Inter-glacial peat; and the usual lists of additions to the Museum and library.

The iron-ore interests have developed so rapidly that the Survey has found it incumbent to pay close attention to the geographic distribution of the rocks carrying this ore, and to the questions relating to their geology. Hence the more important papers in this report are the ones bearing upon those subjects.

The Vertebrate Paleontology of the Llano Estacado.[3]—This report embraces the determination of the species, from the most available parts of the skeleton, of the vertebrata found by the party of the Geological Survey of Texas of 1892, which explored the eastern border of the Staked Plain from the Texas Pacific R. R. on the south to the Denver and Fort Worth road on the north. The party was under the direction of Mr. Wm. F. Cummins, who was accompanied by Professor Cope. They examined exposures of the beds of the Trias, and of Cenozoic beds of the terranes Loup Fork, Blanco and Equus, together with a bed between the Loup Fork and Blanco. The number of species obtained from each of these horizons is as follows: Trias, 7; Loup Fork, 17; Blanco, 16; Equus, 10; bed between Loup Fork and Blanco, 8; total, 58. Of these, eleven were not regarded as determinable. Of the forty-seven species determined, the following were first discovered by the explorations of the geological survey; Trias, 4; Loup Fork, 3; intercalated bed, 3; Blanco, 14; Equus, 5: total, 29. Among the results we find the following. The establishment of a peculiar species of *Episcoposaurus* from the Trias. The discovery of a Tetrabelodon, not previously known to be of Loup Fork age, allied to the *T. serridens.* The determination of the range of variation of the dentition of the *Protohippus placidus*, and the determination of the temporary dentition of Protohippus and Hippotherium. The more important results obtained from the bed intercalated above the Loup Fork is the finding of a new species of Protohippus, Hippidium, and Equus, each; the last named allied to the *E. minutus*; the discovery of new genera of Mustelidae and Hyaenidae from the Blanco bed; the rehabilitation of the *Tetrabelodon shepardii* Leidy hitherto known from a single molar tooth; the species being found to resemble in some respects the genus Dinotherium. Also the determination of three other mastodons from the Blanco bed, and of a large new species of camel of the genus Pliauchenia; the discovery of a true horse (*Equus minutus* Cope) not larger than a sheep. The Equus bed yielded a huge Mylodon, represented by fragments only, four species of horses, and three of camels of the genus Holomeniscus, two of the last named being new to science.

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[1] Conquête du Monde Vegetal. Par Louis Bourdeau, Paris, 1893. M. Felix Alcan, Editeur.

[2] The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota. The Twentieth Annual Report, for the year 1891, Minneapolis, 1893.

[3] A Preliminary Report, by E. D. Cope. From the fourth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Texas (1892); published July 1st, 1893.

Twenty-three plates illustrate the report, which add much to its value, although little can be said in favor of their artistic merits, as they are printed on ordinary paper.